

Washington, DC - Continuing her work to ensure our children are receiving a top quality education, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-39) today announced that she secured \$50,000 for the Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) enrichment program in Paramount. The funding is included in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2005, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on November 20, 2004 by a vote of 344-to-51, and is expected to be signed into law by President Bush shortly.

“The Paramount MESA enrichment program works with educationally disadvantaged students from elementary school through college, and helps them to excel in math and science and obtain graduate degrees from four-year institutions,” said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

MESA is implemented in Paramount by the Gateway Cities Partnership in conjunction with California State University at Long Beach. It is part of the overall “Paramount Education Partnership” effort of the City of Paramount, Paramount Unified School District, and Paramount Chamber of Commerce.

“Nationally scores and achievement are declining in science and math. This funding will support the MESA program which will help Paramount’s kids excel in these areas and succeed in the future,” continued Sánchez.

Specifically, MESA increases Paramount students’ educational attainment, improves test scores, and encourages and facilitates enrollment in colleges. The program provides participating students with individualized academic plans, academic excellence workshops, PSAT/SAT preparation courses, college and career exploration programs, and parent leadership training initiatives. The MESA enrichment program successfully sends 80% of its students to colleges, and has served as a model for similar programs in other states. The requested funds will cover program materials and transportation costs.